

940

BOROUGH OF SUTTON COLDFIELD.

To the Chairman and Members of the
HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE
and

To the Chairman and Members of the
MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with instructions contained in Ministry of Health Circular 2067, of 19th July 1940, I beg to present an Interim Report on the Public Health of the Borough for the year 1940.

The death-rate is higher than usual and there have been limited outbreaks of enteric fever, cerebro-spinal fever and poliomyelitis. In these respects the vital statistics are less favourable than in recent years.

Staff.

Miss A. E. Bickerdike and Miss H.D. Thomas resigned their appointments as health visitors in June and August respectively, and Miss G. E. Brigham was appointed as health visitor and took up her appointment on December 9th.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS.

I.M.etc.	B.R.
M.	F.

Live births:	Total	300	284	300	281	Birth rate per 1,000
	Legitimate	293	280	294	277	of the estimated
	Illegitimate	7	4	6	4	resident population.
						R.G... ... 14.30

Stillbirths	...	Total	M.	F.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)births
		18	10	8	30.05

Deaths	...	486	228	258	Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.
					R.G... ... 11.72

Deaths from puerperal causes	...	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)births..
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Puerperal sepsis...	3.32
Other puerperal causes	Nil

Total	3.32
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Death rate of infants under one year of age :-

All infants per 1,000 live births	34.25
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...	...	...	,..	33.16
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	90.91

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Population (estimated R.G.) midyear 1940 -

For calculation of birth rate,
death rate and incidence of
notifiable diseases

Local estimate of population of

Borough at midyear 1940...

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940)

Rateable Value

Sum represented by a penny rate

40,63

41,48

12,90

£408,25

£1,62

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of population at the mid-year 1940 is 40,630 as compared with 38,740 for 1939, an increase of 1,890 for the 12 months. This compares with an average actual increase of 1,100 per annum between the 1931 census and the Registrar General's estimate for 1939.

The local estimate of population for the year under review, based on the number of inhabited houses is 41,488.

Births.

As in 1939 the live births are shown in two forms namely (a) for calculating infant mortality etc. and (b) for calculating birth-rate.

(a)	M.	F.	(b)	M.	F.
Total	300	284	Total	300	281
Legitimate	293	280	Legitimate	294	277
Illegitimate	7	4	Illegitimate	6	4

The total live birth-rate is 14.3 per 1,000 population, as compared with 14.6 for England and Wales and 15.7 for the Smaller Towns.

The number of still births assigned to the Borough is eighteen, and the still-birth rate per 1,000 population is .44 as compared with .55 for England and Wales and the Small Towns.

Deaths.

In the year under review, 486 deaths were assigned to the Borough and the adjusted death-rate is 11.7 per 1,000 population, as compared with 14.3 for England and Wales and 12.8 for the Smaller Towns.

The corresponding rate for the Borough in 1939 was 9.5, and the increased rate for 1940 is accounted for by high mortality from cancer, tuberculosis (all forms), pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases. Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum also shows an increase.

3.

Heart and other circulatory diseases account for 31% of the deaths and cancer (all sites), the next most frequent cause of death, for 15% with a total of 73.

No deaths were registered from any of the zymotic diseases.

Infant Mortality.

Twenty deaths occurred in infants under one year, which yields an infant mortality rate of 34 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 55 for England and Wales and 54 for the Smaller Towns. Six of the deaths are classed to prematurity, 3 to enteritis, 2 to pneumonia, 5 to birth injuries etc. and 4 to congenital defects.

Maternal Mortality.

Two deaths were assigned to the Borough as due to puerperal sepsis, and the total maternal mortality rate is 3.3 per 1,000 total births. There were no maternal deaths from causes other than sepsis.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The mains were extended for a total distance of 958 yards during the year in the Wylde Green, Mere Green, Chester and Banners Gate Roads. This compares with an extension of 5,931 yards in 1938.

The routine sampling of the water was carried out with satisfactory results, and samples examined during inspection after damage to mains by enemy action were also reported to show no evidence of pollution.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewers were extended for a distance of 2,711 yards in the Falcon Lodge estate and Springfield Road area, and 92 connections were made to the sewers for the drainage of 150 new houses.

Sanitary Inspection.

The general sanitary supervision of the Area has been adequately carried out and, for this purpose, some 3,600 visits (exclusive of housing visits) were made by the Inspectors during the year. A large number of nuisance defects were remedied, entirely by informal action.

Rivers and Streams.

Pollution of a stream by a military establishment was investigated and, as the result of representations the nuisance was abated.

Swimming baths.

By resolution of the Park and Estates Committee in June the baths at Keepers Pool were reserved for the use of children only, in order to minimise the risk arising from contamination of the water by excessive use in the absence of chlorination.

Supervision of Food.Milk.

The normal routine supervision of farms and dairies was carried out and both designated and undesignate milk was sampled for bacteriological and methylene blue tests. The undesignated milk on the whole showed satisfactory result but it is noteworthy that an unduly high percentage of designated samples did not comply with the regulations. One sample of tuberculin tested milk examined for living tubercle bacilli, gave positive results.

Meat.

Slaughtering of animals for food in private slaughter houses in the Borough ceased on January 15th, after which date meat was distributed to retailers from a central depot. Some 12 per cent of the carcases slaughtered and inspected in the Borough were found to be affected with disease other than tuberculosis, and 10 per cent with tuberculosis.

From January 15th to December 31st, 569 lbs of beef, 19 lamb carcases and 44 lbs of bacon and a quantity of offal was destroyed or returned to the Ministry of Food Depot owing to unsoundness etc.

General food shops, licensed premises, cafes etc.

These premises were inspected and many defects were remedied. The Shops' Inspector reports that at the end of 1940 there were 692 shops on the register as compared with 713 at the end of 1939, and that no formal action was undertaken in respect of closing, employment, half holidays or Sunday trading.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The Chief Sampling Officer, Warwickshire County Council, reports that he took 130 samples for analysis in the Borough during the year and that of these the following were unsatisfactory :- Jam deficient in fruit, 3 ; grade B sausages sold as grade A, 1 (Controlled Prices Order), milk deficient in fat, 3 ; butter adulterated with margarine, 3. (Taken from one vendor: statutory action resulted in a fine and costs of £11. 6. 0). Tincture of iodine deficient of 8.8 per cent iodine, 1 ; vegetable soup, 14 parts per million of lead, 1.

HOUSING.

135 new dwelling houses were completed and added to the valuation list during the year.

The sanitary supervision of dwellings was adequately maintained, the Inspectors having paid 3,382 visits for the inspection of 1,253 houses.

No houses were represented as unfit for habitation, but some 48 per cent of houses inspected were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation. This figure represents a marked increase in the percentages for previous years, but does not indicate any material depreciation in housing standards. The increase in the defects recorded is accounted for to a large extent by damage to spouting and other minor defects, the result of severe weather conditions, and want of adequate receptacles for storage of household refuse, the latter being accentuated by the slowing of collection.

Over 90 per cent of all defects were remedied, and, excluding those houses which have been scheduled for demolition, and of which some have been re-occupied, the standard of housing has remained very satisfactory.

At the beginning of the year there were 7 overcrowded dwellings occupied by 45 adults and 13 children and at the end of the year this number had been reduced to 3, occupied by 20 adults and 8 children.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications (revised). Enteric, 6; scarlet fever, 58; diphtheria, 4; measles, 130; whooping cough, 32; erysipelas, 8; pneumonia, 41; puerperal pyrexia, 5; cerebro-spinal fever, 14; poliomyelitis, 8; polio-encephalitis, 2; ophthalmia neonatorum, 6; tuberculosis - respiratory, 24; non-respiratory, 10; food poisoning, 6.

Enteric.

Seven notifications of enteric (para-typhoid B) were received during the year, one in March and six during the last two weeks of July and the first week of August. The diagnosis in one of the latter was revised.

During the period in July - August over which the outbreak occurred in the Borough, cases were also being notified in the Birmingham and surrounding districts, and an enquiry from the Birmingham Health Department suggested that "cream" filling for confectionery might be suspected. On investigation it was established that four of the five patients had consumed this within the incubation period.

Four of the cases notified in this group were females between the ages 15 years and 38 years and one was a male aged 31 years.

The case rate is .15 per 1,000 population as compared with .07 for England and Wales and .10 for the Smaller Towns. The mortality was nil.

Scarlet Fever.

This disease was of the usual mild type. Cases were reported from each Ward but the highest incidence was in Maney and Walmley, from which more than half of the cases were notified.

The case rate is 1.43 as compared with 1.63 for England and Wales and 1.57 for the Smaller Towns. The mortality was nil.

Diphtheria.

Four cases with a final diagnosis of diphtheria occurred in the Borough during the year, and the case rate is .10 as compared with 1.16 for England and Wales and 1.21 for the Smaller Towns. The mortality was nil as compared with .06 for England and Wales and .05 for the Smaller Towns.

The usual circulars were sent to parents of entrant school children offering immunization, and the acceptance rate was over 60 per cent. Unfortunately, however, owing to stress of work and other circumstances the immunization of these children was behindhand at the end of the year, but the arrears were dealt with early in 1941.

There was a satisfactory increase in the number of children under 5 years immunized, and material was supplied to doctors for the treatment of 111 children, privately.

Measles.

The disease became epidemic in the Boldmere Area in the last half of the year. The case rate is 3.20 as compared with 10.24 for England and Wales and 9.99 for the Smaller Towns. Mortality was nil as compared with a rate of .02 for England and Wales and the Smaller Towns.

Whooping Cough.

As with measles the majority of whooping cough cases were notified from the Boldmere Area and in the last half of the year. The case rate is .79 as compared with 1.34 and 1.35 for England and Wales and the Smaller Towns respectively. The mortality was nil as compared with a rate of .02 for England and Wales and the Smaller Towns.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.

There was a marked increase in the incidence of this disease for the year and the case rate for the Borough is .34 as compared with .32 for England and Wales and .29 for the Smaller Towns.

The disease was evenly distributed throughout the Borough and cases were notified in each quarter, the highest incidence being in the first and third quarters. Of the 14 cases notified six were in males and eight in females.

Three deaths from the disease in females were assigned to the Borough, which is equivalent to a case mortality rate of 21.4 per cent.

Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis.

Of the 10 cases notified under these heads, 7 occurred in the fourth quarter. The mortality amongst civilian cases was nil, but one death occurred in a non-civilian who was admitted to hospital whilst on leave.

Tuberculosis.

The notifications of both the respiratory and non-respiratory forms of the disease show an increase on the figures for 1939. Twenty deaths were classed under respiratory disease and six under "other forms".

The highest incidence of respiratory disease was in the age group 25-35 years and the highest mortality, in the age groups 35-45 and 45-55 years.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

The case rate per 1,000 total births for this disease is 8.31 as compared with 11.96 for England and Wales and 9.73 for the Smaller Towns. Two deaths from the disease were assigned to the Borough.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Five of the six cases notified were treated at the Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital and one by private practitioner. Five cases are known to have recovered without damage to vision. The sixth case removed to another Area.

Food Poisoning.

Nine cases in five outbreaks were investigated. Various foods, notably tinned salmon and tinned peas were suspected, but no confirmatory evidence was obtained in any case.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Public Health Act 1936, Section 203.

Live births notified	...	...	...	478
Still "	"	...	...	11
Births transferred inwards				
	Live births			128
	Still "			7
Births transferred outwards				
	Live births			56
	Still "			1

Clinics.

Clinics were held at Holland Street, the old infants' school, Boldmere and Minworth. The clinics at Hill were discontinued as the premises were required for civil defence purposes, the sale of food being continued in an adjoining building which was not available for clinics. The Boldmere school, which had been taken over in 1939 for this purpose was cleaned and adapted and provides adequate accommodation as a temporary centre. Mains water is laid on but there is lacking water borne sanitation to replace which a chemical closet has been installed.

The number of sessions held at all centres is 141 and the totals of attendances are, children 5,396 and antenatal cases 353.

Health Visitors.

Two health visitors relinquished their appointments during the year, one on June 5th and one on August 3rd, and owing to an acute general shortage one only was appointed as from December 9th. In consequence, therefore, two health visitors only were available for 11 weeks and one only for 18 weeks.

The depletion of the staff has resulted in a marked decrease in the number of home visits paid during the year, and consequently in a reduction in the supervision of young children and pregnant mothers during a war period when there was a greater need for such supervision.

Domiciliary Visits by Health Visitors.

1st visits to expectant mothers	...	...	136
Total visits to "	"	"	448
1st visits to children under 1 year	...	...	511
Total visits to "	"	"	2,662
Visits " " 1 - 5 years	...	...	2,412
Visits for enquiries into stillbirths	...	...	12
Visits to boarded-out children	...	...	41
Visits to old persons	...	...	41
Visits for enquiries into puerperal pyrexia	...	...	6
Visits for enquiries into ophthalmia neonatorum	...	...	12
Inspection of Nursing Homes	...	...	13
Special request visits	...	...	100
Unsuccessful visits	...	...	686
			6,433
Number of households visited	...	...	5,176

9.

Midwifery Service.

At meetings held in 1939, your Committee gave consideration to the question of terminating the agreement with the County Council for the supply of midwifery by the Local Authority, under the Midwives Act 1936, and in accordance with your decision the agreement was terminated as from July 1st 1940.

During the first six months of the year the Municipal Midwives attended 102 cases, 45 with doctors and 57 alone.

Home Helps.

This service has been continued during the year, and "helps" were provided on 48 occasions, all of which were for normal maternity cases.

Orthopaedic and other treatment.

Under the Local Authority's arrangements 12 children were treated by the Ophthalmic Surgeon, and 19 children by the Dental Surgeon. Ten children were referred to the Cripples Hospital, Birmingham for orthopaedic defects and 5 to the Childrens Hospital for tonsillectomy. In addition 16 children under school age were referred to Hospitals otherwise than under the Local Authority's arrangements, five to the Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital and eleven to the Childrens Hospital.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T H. Wright

Medical Officer of Health.

Council House,
Sutton Coldfield.

July, 1941.

Polio-encephalitis.

One case, a female aged 9 years was notified under this heading. Treatment was carried out at home under the direction of an orthopaedic surgeon.

Tuberculosis.

The notifications of respiratory tuberculosis for the years 1939-1941 average 23 per annum as compared with 14.9 for the years 1929-1938. The corresponding figures for the non-respiratory disease on the other hand show no material change. The organs affected, other than respiratory, were glands (2), meninges (1), bone (2).

For the year under review the mortality for the respiratory disease was 17 and for the non-respiratory 2. Persistent note has been taken of the increase in the notifications of respiratory tuberculosis since the outbreak of the war, and restricted food supplies and blackout conditions have been variously assigned as reasons for the increase in the disease. No doubt these are adverse factors in regard to the disease but it is doubtful if they fully explain the apparent rise in incidence which has occurred.

In normal times many cases of respiratory tuberculosis remain undiagnosed and the presence of the disease is either

unsuspected or gives rise to indefinite symptoms for which the patient rests and is, perhaps, treated symptomatically before returning to work. Under the stress of war conditions, however, these palliative measures are no longer available and, through the inability of the patient to carry on, the real nature of the illness which would otherwise escape detection, is brought to light.

Tuberculosis. New cases and mortality during 1941. Table.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
5	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-
15	-	4	-	1	-	4	-	-
25	2	6	-	-	1	3	-	-
35	3	-	-	-	4	2	-	-
45	2	1	-	-	2	1	-	-
55	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals..	10	13	2	3	7	10	1	1

... { Legitimate
Illegitimate

15 - 6
5 1

Pneumonia.

Fifty-three cases, four of which were non-civilian were notified during the year as compared with 41 in 1940. In 9 cases the disease was described as influenzal. Cases occurred in all the age groups with the exception of 4-5 years, but the case rates were highest in the age groups over 45 years. The disease was most prevalent in the first quarter.

The mortality rate is .49 per 1,000 population.

The notification rate for the Borough is 1.26 per 1,000 population as compared with 1.25 for England and Wales and 1.04 for the Smaller Towns.

The mortality rate for the Borough is .48 per 1,000 Population.

Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

Seven notifications were received but in 3 cases the diagnosis was revised. Three of the cases occurred in males and one in a female.

The case rate for the Borough is .10 per 1,000 population as compared with .25 for England and Wales and .20 for the Smaller Towns. The mortality rate is .02.

Measles.

An outbreak of measles spread through the Area during the first half of the year, the disease being most prevalent in Boldmere West Ward. The highest incidence was in the age group 5-10 years but almost an equal proportion of cases occurred in the combined age group 1-5 years. One death was registered in a boy aged 3 years. In this connection it may be recorded that no deaths from the disease were assigned to the Borough in the period 1932-1940.

The case rate is 7.96 per 1,000 population, as compared with 10.35 for England and Wales and 10.47 for the Smaller Towns. The mortality is .02 as compared with .03 for England and Wales and the Smaller Towns.

Whooping Cough.

This disease was also prevalent throughout the Borough, Walnley Ward being most affected. As compared with measles a higher proportion of cases occurred in babies under 1 year, otherwise the age distribution followed closely that of measles. Three deaths occurred, all in babies under 1 year.

The case rate is 4.77 per 1,000 population as compared with 4.39 for England and Wales and 4.50 for the Smaller Towns. The mortality rate is .07 as compared with .06 for England and Wales and the Smaller Towns.

The Scabies Order, 1941.

This Order confers powers of inspection of persons and premises and of compulsory cleansing of persons and clothing or other articles.

For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Order arrangements have been made for the cleansing of verminous persons at the Baths, South Parade, where, if home conditions are unsuitable ^{the necessary} treatment may be carried out. The services of a qualified nurse and an untrained assistant have been made available.

Doctors practising in the Arda have been notified of the arrangements, and are co-operating by notifying such cases under their care as are in need of assistance for efficient treatment. No case is treated until the disease has been diagnosed by a doctor.

During the latter part of the year several cases ^{the treatment of} ^{was} supervised in their homes, and an outbreak in a factory was dealt with by treatment of the infected workers at the baths. No secondary cases arose and the usual period for complete cure did not exceed 10 days.

A survey of the available evidence shows that there is an increase in the incidence of scabies, but the number of cases brought to notice by doctors and found in schools or otherwise does not indicate that the disease has become a public health or social problem. The percentage of infected families in the Borough is very small.

Quarterly Notifications of Infectious Diseases. Table

Disease	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Scarlet Fever	3	15	18	55	71
Diphtheria	6	7	6	2	21
Pneumonia+	24	18	5	8.	55
Erysipelas	5	1	2	2	8
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	2	-	4
Enteric Fever (including para- typhoid) .	1	14	2	1	18
Polio-encephalitis	1	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	1	1	1	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	1	2	-	5
Tuberculosis Respiratory ..	9	4	6	4	23
Non-respiratory	2	3	-	-	5
Measles	148	130	6	1	335
Whooping Cough ...	93	74	24	5	201
Food Poisoning ...	-	1	2	-	5
 Totals	302	320	74	57	753

Infectious Diseases Notified in Wards.

Table

Wards.		Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Enteric (including para-typoid)	Polio-encephalitis.	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Tuberculosis	Measles	Whooping Cough	Food Poisoning	Total
Trinity	7	3	6	-	1	1	3	-	12	-	30	20	1	-	74
Hill	20	10	15	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	10	16	-	-	80
Boldmere East	2	1	4	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	45	13	-	-	75
Boldmere West	15	4	8	1	1	2	3	-	1	-	105	29	2	-	171
Wylde Green	4	1	6	1	1	2	-	-	2	-	58	10	-	-	62
Nancy	18	2	11	1	1	3	-	1	1	9	2	52	35	-	134
Walmley	8	1	5	5	-	1	-	1	1	3	-	59	75	-	157
T															
Total ..	74	21	55	8	4	18	1	4	5	25	5	355	201	5	755

Factories.

There were 142 factories on the register during the year, in 83 of which mechanical power was used. Included in the total were 17 bakehouses.

For the purpose of supervising sanitary conditions falling within the jurisdiction of the Local Authority, 277 inspections were made and details of the defects found are set out in the Sanitary Inspector's statement.

